

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. A method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers for a manufacturing order, said method comprising the steps of:

dividing a manufacturing order for a user into a plurality of manufacturable parts; and

submitting a local bid request for said manufacturing order to a plurality of local manufacturers; and

15 in response to receiving a plurality of local bids for said manufacturing order, submitting a remote bid request to a plurality of remote manufacturers for a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts as requested in said plurality of local bids.

20 2. The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

25 submitting said local bid request and said remote bid request from a broker server communicatively connected through a network to a plurality of manufacturer systems.

3. The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

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facilitating said user in designing a personalized product;
and

in response to receiving a request to order said
personalized product, adjusting said personalized product into
said manufacturing order.

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4. The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 3, said method further comprising the steps of:

5 in response to receiving a design request from a user, transmitting a plurality of available products to said user;

in response to receiving a product selection from among said plurality of available products, transmitting a plurality of available attributes to said user;

in response to receiving an attribute selection from among said plurality of available attributes, transmitting a plurality of available variables to said user; and

in response to a receiving a variable selection from among said plurality of available variables, rendering a graphical representation of said personalized product according to said product selection, said attribute selection and said variable selection.

5. The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 4, said method further comprising the step of:

calculating a cost estimate for said personalized product according to said product selection, said attribute selection and said variable selection.

6. The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 3, said method further comprising the steps of:

5 analyzing said personalized design for integrity; and

in response to finding integrity flaws in said personalized design, providing said user with suggestions for adjusting said personalized design.

7. The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

compiling said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids into a plurality of selectable bid options for said user.

8. The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

receiving a selection from said user from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids;

transferring an order request for said manufacturing order according to said selection from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids.

9. The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 8, said method further comprising the step of:

5 completing a financial settlement from said user for said order request.

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10. A system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers for a manufacturing order, said system comprising:

5 a server system communicatively connected via a network to a plurality of local manufacturers and a plurality of remote manufacturers;

said server system comprising:

means for dividing a manufacturing order received at said server system from a user into a plurality of manufacturable parts; and

means for submitting a local bid request from said server system for said manufacturing order to said plurality of local manufacturers; and

means for submitting a remote bid request from said server system to a plurality of remote manufacturers for a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts as requested in said plurality of local bids, in response to receiving a plurality of local bids for said manufacturing order at said server system.

11. The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 10, said system further comprising:

5 means for facilitating said user in designing a personalized product; and

means for adjusting said personalized product into said manufacturing order, in response to receiving a request to order said personalized product.

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12. The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 11, said system further comprising:

5 means for transmitting a plurality of available products to said user from said server system, in response to receiving a design request from a user;

means for transmitting a plurality of available attributes to said user from said server system, in response to receiving a product selection from among said plurality of available products;

means for transmitting a plurality of available variables to said user from said server system, in response to receiving an attribute selection from among said plurality of available attributes; and

20 means for rendering a graphical representation of said personalized product according to said product selection from said server system, said attribute selection and said variable selection, in response to a receiving a variable selection from among said plurality of available variables.

13. The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 12, said system further comprising:

5 means for calculating a cost estimate for said personalized product according to said product selection, said attribute selection and said variable selection.

14. The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for analyzing said personalized design for integrity;
and

means for providing said user with suggestions for adjusting said personalized design, in response to finding integrity flaws in said personalized design.

20 15. The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 10, said system further comprising:

25 means for compiling said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids into a plurality of selectable bid options for said user.

16. The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 10, said system further comprising:

5 means for receiving a selection from said user from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids at said server system;

means for transferring an order request from said server system for said manufacturing order according to said selection from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids.

17. The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 16, said system further comprising:

means for completing a financial settlement from said user for said order request.

18. A program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers for a manufacturing order, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

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means for dividing a manufacturing order for a user into a plurality of manufacturable parts; and

means for transmitting a local bid request for said manufacturing order to a plurality of local manufacturers; and

means for transmitting a remote bid request to a plurality of remote manufacturers for a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts as requested in said plurality of local bids, in response to receiving a plurality of local bids for said manufacturing order.

19. The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 18, said program further comprising:

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means for facilitating said user in designing a personalized product; and

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means for transferring said personalized product into said manufacturing order, in response to receiving a request to order said personalized product.

20. The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 19, said program further comprising:

5 means for transmitting a plurality of available products to said user, in response to receiving a design request from a user;

means for transmitting a plurality of available attributes to said user, in response to receiving a product selection from among said plurality of available products;

means for transmitting a plurality of available variables to said user, in response to receiving an attribute selection from among said plurality of available attributes; and

means for generating a graphical representation of said personalized product according to said product selection, said attribute selection and said variable selection, in response to a receiving a variable selection from among said plurality of available variables.

21. The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 20, said program further comprising:

means for calculating a cost estimate for said personalized product according to said product selection, said attribute selection and said variable selection.

22. The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 19, said program further comprising:

5 means for analyzing said personalized design for integrity;
and

means for notifying said user with suggestions for adjusting said personalized design, in response to finding integrity flaws in said personalized design.

23. The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 18, said program further comprising:

means for compiling said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids into a plurality of selectable bid options for said user.

20 24. The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 18, said program further comprising:

25 means for receiving a selection from said user from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids;

means for transmitting an order request for said manufacturing order according to said selection from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids.

25. The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 24, said program further comprising:

5 means for completing a financial settlement from said user for said order request.

26. A method for customizing bids for a personalized product, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a bid request for a personalized product at a local manufacturer, wherein said bid request comprises a plurality of manufacturable parts; and

returning a bid offer for said personalized product specifying a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts to be provided by a remote manufacturer, such that said local manufacturer customizes said bid offer for said personalized product.

27. The method for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 26, said step of receiving a bid request for a personalized product further comprising the step of:

25 receiving said bid request at a local manufacturer system communicatively connected to a network with a broker server comprising means for receiving requests from users.

28. The method for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 26, said step of returning a bid offer further comprising the step of:

5 requiring an option to select from among a plurality of bids for said selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts from a plurality of remote manufacturers.

29. A system for customizing bids for a personalized product, said system comprising:

 a manufacturer server system communicatively connected via a network to a broker server system enabled to receive a bid request from a user;

 said manufacturer server system comprising:

 means for receiving said bid request for a personalized product at a local manufacturer, wherein said bid request comprises a plurality of manufacturable parts; and

 means for returning a bid offer for said personalized product specifying a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts to be provided by a remote manufacturer, such that said local manufacturer customizes said bid offer for said personalized product.

30. The system for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 29, said means for receiving a bid request for a personalized product further comprising:

5 means for receiving said bid request at a local manufacturer system communicatively connected to a network with said broker server system.

31. The system for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 29, said means for returning a bid offer further comprising:

means for requiring an option to select from among a plurality of bids for said selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts from a plurality of remote manufacturers.

32. A program for customizing bids for a personalized product, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

20 means for receiving a bid request for a personalized product at a local manufacturer, wherein said bid request comprises a plurality of manufacturable parts; and

25 means for returning a bid offer for said personalized product specifying a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts to be provided by a remote manufacturer, such that said local manufacturer customizes said bid offer for said personalized product.

33. The program for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 32, said program further comprising:

means for receiving said bid request at a local manufacturer system communicatively connected to a network with a broker server.

34. The program for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 32, said program further comprising:

means for requiring an option to select from among a plurality of bids for said selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts from a plurality of remote manufacturers.

35. A method for procuring manufacturers, said method comprising the steps of:

facilitating a user entry of a personalized design; and

procuring at least one remote manufacturer for manufacturing a particular portion of a personalized design order, such that a local manufacturer is enabled to manufacture and assemble said personalized design utilizing said particular portion manufactured by said at least one remote manufacturer.